



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029

FEB 04 2014

Mr. George Hartenstein, Director
Bureau of Environmental Cleanup and Brownfields
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Rachel Carson State Office Building
400 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105-8471

Dear Mr. Hartenstein:

On December 6, 2013, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Storage Tanks and Site Remediation Division had a telephone meeting with Thomas UyBarreta of the Office of State Programs to discuss the FY 2013 grant commitments. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) would like to congratulate the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) for exceeding their grant commitments for FY 2013 in both the prevention and clean up programs. As discussed during the meeting, EPA believes that PADEP has an exemplary program and will be able to continue this level of effort in FY 2014.

The underground storage tank program has maintained consistent significant operational compliance (SOC) rates for a number of years. In 2013, facilities inspected had compliance rates of 89% for release detection (RD), 93% for release prevention (RP) and 83% for combined (RD + RP). As a result of the third-party program and the productivity of the PADEP inspection staff, a total of 3,393 inspections (2,915 third-party and 478 PADEP) were conducted in FY 2013 for an inspection frequency of 2.4 years, the lowest inspection cycle in EPA Region 3. EPA also appreciates the proactive measures PADEP takes, particularly applying delivery prohibition authorities. By actively communicating with distributors to stop shipments to facilities not in compliance, PADEP creates incentives for facilities to come back into compliance quickly. EPA applauds PADEP for their aggressive approach to ensuring compliance with release detection and prevention requirements.

The leaking underground storage tank (LUST) program had a successful year going beyond their goals to close out open cases of releases. For FY 2013, PADEP closed 584 sites, 234 beyond the grant commitment of 350 sites. As mentioned at the December 6th meeting and in the end of year report, the increase was partially due to additional temporary staff used to help close out the cases. PADEP does not anticipate problems in meeting the FY 2014 goals despite not having the additional temporary staff to close out cases. PADEP's LUST site backlog percentage is 13.6% which is 1.6% lower than midyear FY 2013 and 2.47% lower than at the end of FY 2012, a great reduction over the last year. EPA would like to assist the Commonwealth in any way to further reduce its backlog percentage.



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EPA appreciates the contributions of PADEP and the Pennsylvania Underground Storage Tank Indemnification Fund (USTIF) in providing EPA with the information needed to assess the financial soundness of USTIF as it serves as the main financial responsibility mechanism for cleaning up releases and reducing the State's backlog of LUST sites. The Region is working with EPA's Office of Underground Storage Tanks to create a snapshot of the Fund's soundness for FY 2013 using the worksheet that PADEP and USTIF provided. We will provide the results to PADEP and USTIF as soon as that process is complete.

I thank your office for its continued productivity in implementing the UST and LUST programs. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Rick Rogers at (215) 814-5711 or at rogers.rick@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John A. Armstead", written over a horizontal line.

John A. Armstead, Director
Land and Chemicals Division



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